



**Mountain West Outdoor Club Newsletter**

# February, 2022

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"If it is really religion with these nudist colonies, they sure must turn atheists in the wintertime." -- Will Rogers

Greetings from the Better-Late-Than-Never newsroom! It's proving to be a busy winter around here! Every day brings its own load of news, events, and activities. Better than endless sitting around the fire, mending harnesses in the dark, like the pioneers. Also, they didn't have restaurant delivery, but they also didn't have Covid. It will all work out in the end.... BTW I received many great photos but have the attributions confused. Thank you to everyone! A few of the photos came from Deb Rose, often the best ones.

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## **MONTHLY POTLUCK DINNER, Monday, February 7**

**Maple Grove Grange Hall, 11692 W President Dr, Boise**

**Gather ~ 6:00 PM, Dinner ~ 6:30 PM, Presentation ~ 7:00 PM**

This month's speaker is Sandy Thiel, a personal friend and longtime stalwart of the Idaho Dept of Natural Resources. Her topic will be "Water Rights in Idaho". This innocuous-sounding subject has led to numerous arguments and even bloodshed over the years. It behooves us, as outdoors people, to understand its background and essential features. We could wish for no one better than Sandy to explain it. She has decades of experience in the field, having explored almost every drainage and ditch in the state, as well as having extensive knowledge of the legalities. I look forward to hearing her speak!

As always, we need six members to arrive at 5:30 to help set up tables, chairs, screen, etc. We also need a clean-up "manager" to direct activity and make sure all is OK before departing. Please contact Wendell Martin, [wendellmartin2@aol.com](mailto:wendellmartin2@aol.com), 208-888-2858, if you can assist this month.

We will continue with Covid precautions at the January meeting. Please wear a mask when not eating. Don't attend if you are unwell, unvaccinated, or unboosted. Thank you for looking out for yourself and others.



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## KUNA CAVE CLEAN-UP

**Monday Feb 7th, 10:00 AM, Kuna Greenbelt Parking Lot, 126 S Swan Falls Rd, Kuna**

"We're looking for 10-15 adventurous club members for this event/service project. Please RSVP to both Steve Schaps ([thewildwestguy@gmail.com](mailto:thewildwestguy@gmail.com)) and Wendell Martin ([wendellmartin2@aol.com](mailto:wendellmartin2@aol.com)). {Smeagol and Deagol come to mind} Join us as we explore Kuna Cave and clean up trash (e.g., cans, fireworks, glow sticks) as part of our giving back to our community. We will also use ropes to remove larger trash items like broken BBQ grills and other larger items.

Things to bring in addition to your sense of adventure:

- Headlamp with good fresh batteries, and backup flashlight
- Clothes you can get dirty and dusty

--boots, hat, gloves, small backpack

-- Hiking pole or long stick to remove trash caught in crevices"

Snarky allusions aside, this service trip seems very admirable and is sorely needed. Please contact the chief adventurers for more details.





## CAMPING TRIP TO HELPER UTAH, June 7-11

HELPER, UTAH. Never heard of it? It is a fun little town in the middle of Utah that has several things going for it that got my attention. Mainly, there is a lot to do! Hiking, fishing and biking plus several interesting museums. Also, there is a 45-mile drive through the "Nine Mile Canyon" that we could spend a day exploring. 3 days should cover the highlights then we can all take off in different directions on other adventures.

I have a campground I'm working with, Castle Gate RV Park, that has tent and RV sites plus cabins. They are holding some sites and I have reserved 3 of the cabins until Feb. 1st. If enough people sign up, we will get a 10% discount. You can get refunds up to 14 days before June 7<sup>th</sup> with a \$25. fee.

Check it out and if you are interested give me a call or text at 208-571-9885 or email me at [BP.56@hotmail.com](mailto:BP.56@hotmail.com).

Bonnie Perri

{June is still far away but time is running out on those cabins. Better contact Bonnie right away!}



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## CLUB EVENTS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

There have been an amazing number of club activities since last publication, far too many to mention every one. Instead, allow me to present a photo montage of some high points. Prepare to recognize yourself or your friends!



Vicious noodle fights at the January meeting. Boise Fencing Club has a standing offer for a free introductory fencing lesson to interested parties. ([fencingboise.com](http://fencingboise.com))

Tuesday hikers...



Wednesday hikers...

There's always someone watching...



Thursday hikers....

Thursday skiers....







Stopping the hard way....

McCall Winter Festival !!!





How have we survived as a species? (note sign in photo above)

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## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Several topics were discussed at the recent annual Hike Leaders meeting:

- Our hiking groups are increasing in size as the club grows larger. Some hikes have seen 20-30 people in good weather. There aren't so many hikers during the cold season but we may have to address it in the Spring. Hike leaders should have contingencies for adequate trailhead parking, too many hikers, etc.
- MWOC has some "private groups", mainly for kayaking and biking. It really isn't intended to be exclusive, but rather is a mechanism to limit numbers and make sure everyone has requisite skills. If you are interested in kayaking, please contact Francesco Satta ([capitanosatta@yahoo.com](mailto:capitanosatta@yahoo.com)). If you are interested in biking, please contact Jim Wolf ([jawolf05@msn.com](mailto:jawolf05@msn.com)). If we have enough bikers, we may be able to split into groups for shorter and longer rides.

MWOC hike leaders are discussing whether hikers should be required to carry emergency ID. The concern is that someone could have a medical issue while hiking such that we would need to call for help or notify a relative. Options include:

- Carry your wallet. Put a card in your wallet that states any medical issues and person to notify (include phone number).
- Claire Veseth has found a way to include emergency information on your iPhone. Go to <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT207021> for instructions. We assume that Android phones have something similar. Jitterbug anyone?
- Several of us wear personal identification in the form of RoadID ([www.roadid.com](http://www.roadid.com)). These are sturdy, stylish items that come in the form of bracelets, necklaces, or anklets. Each item bears a link and password so that First Responders can look up your medical problems, medications, next of kin, health insurance, etc. Really whatever you want to put on their secure website. I have my Life Flight membership printed right on the bracelet -- get me outta here!!! (Disclaimer: MWOC has no relationship with RoadID. There are probably other similar products that are just as good, cheaper, and so forth.)

- We invite other ideas to keep everyone safe. We have to look out for each other. Also, it would be very heavy to carry you out of the boonies.

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## CLUB ACTIVITIES

**MONTHLY MEETINGS** are held on the first Monday of the month at the Maple Grove Grange. We will return to outdoor meetings in May, 2022. Bring a dish to share, your own table service, and a non-alcoholic drink

**TUESDAY HIKES** email announcements are sent each week with location and time. Hikes are of moderate difficulty, 4 to 6 miles, lasting approximately 2 to 2.5 hours. Starting time varies with time of year and weather conditions. If you have questions contact Pat Dailey, 208-272-0639.

**WEDNESDAY HIKES** email announcements are sent each week. Hikes begin at 10 AM winter, earlier in the summer. Hikes are fast-paced, of challenging difficulty, 5 or more miles and lasting 3 or more hours, depending on trail and weather conditions. Challenging difficulty means that you'll need to be in good hiking condition because of significant elevation gain and/or increased mileage. Watch for an email announcement of meeting place and hike description. If you have questions, contact Scott Stolhand, 208-891-2214.

**THURSDAY CASUAL HIKES** begin at 10 AM, are slower-paced, less than two hours and involve minimal elevation gain/loss. Watch for emails announcing Thursday hikes and other activities. If you have questions contact Liz McWhorter, 208-891-0426.

**THURSDAY SKI GROUP** meets at Miller's Gulch parking lot, mile marker 3 on Bogus Basin Road. The group departs for Bogus Basin at noon. Bogus Basin rents ski and snowshoe equipment. Afternoon trail rates begin at 1:00 PM. Ski lessons (offered at another time) are a good idea if you are new to Nordic skiing. Car pooling is left up to each person's discretion so join a group at Camels Back or drive yourself. COVID vaccinations and boosters are required for carpooling, and the driver may require masks to be worn in the car. Masks will be required inside the Frontier Point Nordic Lodge. Outside food will be allowed inside as long as you are eating at a table. No leaving bags or equipment inside the lodge

## General Announcements

**EMAILS** Local mid-week activities (hikes, paddles, bike-rides, etc.) are announced through Wild Apricot emails. If you have questions about sending or receiving e-mails, please contact Jim Wolf at [jawolf05@msn.com](mailto:jawolf05@msn.com).

Planning or thinking of an excursion where you would like to invite like-minded souls? Any officer will help you post an email. For inclusion in this monthly newsletter send details to [jawolf05@msn.com](mailto:jawolf05@msn.com).

**MWOC WEBSITE** You don't have to login to visit most of the MWOC pages, including the calendar of events, news, and resources. The pages that require login are your own profile, membership directory, and Gallery. If you haven't already created a password for the website, click on Login at the top of the page, enter your email address, and click "Forgot password." You will receive an email message with instructions. Please address questions to [laura.jenski@gmail.com](mailto:laura.jenski@gmail.com).

## MWOC officers

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